

REMARKS

This paper responds to the Office Action mailed July 18, 2008. Claims 1-17 are pending and have been examined in the present application.

On page 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,754,662 to Li (Li) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0039365 to Kalpathy *et al.* (Kalpathy). The Examiner's rejection on this ground is respectfully traversed.

Among the limitations of independent claim 1 which are neither disclosed nor suggested in the art of record it is a requirement that the packet search device comprises "a first search processing means for searching predetermined conditional statements corresponding to a plurality of information areas included in header information of said packet" and "a second search processing means **for searching the first search results of said first search processing means** with a second search method that is different from said first search method." (Emphasis added). Independent claims 9 and 17 comprise similar limitations. As admitted on page 6 of the Office Action, Li does not explicitly teach these limitations. Kalpathy fails to cure.

Kalpathy discloses a cache table for pipeline processing packet searches. Kalpathy teaches that a subset of entries from a search table can be duplicated in a cache table, *e.g.*, the "Cache . . . can store every 128th entry of the larger 8K Table." Kalpathy, paragraph [0022]. But the second search merely searches the remaining entries based on the results of the first search, and does not search the results of the first search. "In the scheme illustrated in FIG. 3, the Search Stage Zero accesses the Cache and performs the first six search cycles. Based on the results of the search performed by accessing the Cache, the Search Stage One accesses the larger 8K Table [*i.e.*, not the

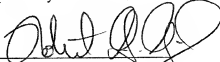
results of the first search] to perform the remaining seven search cycles.” In other words, the Cache is used to perform the first half of the search, and then the Table is used to finish the search to find the table entry corresponding to the packet address. Therefore, Kalpathy fails to disclose that the results of the first search are then searched again by a different search method, as required by the independent claims. *See* Kalpathy at paragraph [0022] and Fig. 3. In the absence of any disclosure or suggestion of this feature of the invention, claims 1, 9 and 17 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Dependent claims 2-8 and 10-16 depend from claims 1 and 9 respectively, and include all of the limitations found therein. These claims include further limitations, which in combination with the limitations of the claims from which they depend are neither disclosed nor suggested in the art of record, and are therefore allowable for the same reasons expressed above.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: August 19, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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